

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**
by
Nancy Alderman, President

S.B. No. 237 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE STORAGE OR DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE IN CONNECTICUT.

H.B. No. 5308 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FRACKING WASTE.

Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Linda Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee, Good Afternoon:

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is only in favor of completely banning fracking waste from coming into Connecticut. **Therefore, EHHI only supports Bill S.B. 237 - an act prohibiting the storage or disposal of fracking waste in Connecticut.**

Fracking is a method of extracting natural gas from deep in the ground by injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into dense rock formations such as shale, in order to crack the rock and release the gas.

If a state decides it supports fracking for natural gas - and that state receives the profits from that endeavor - then that state should either deal with their own waste or find a state that thinks radioactive toxic fracking waste is desirable – that should never be Connecticut.

If you choose to have a dog and you gain pleasure from that dog – your neighbor should not have to have that dogs waste on their property – especially if the dog’s waste is toxic and radioactive.

In Pennsylvania alone, there are currently over 6,000 drilled and active fracking wells. A typical natural gas well takes between 2 to 5 million gallons of fluid to frack. Of that, 10 to 50 percent of the toxic fluid returns to the surface. The returning fluid not only contains the toxic chemicals that were in the fracking fluid — but also - when it returns to the surface it contains salts, arsenic and radioactive materials that it picked up from deep inside the earth.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research in Pennsylvania reports that the Marcellus shale deposits found in much of the fracking waste consists of radium-226, which has a 1/2 life of 1,600 years. Radium is a carcinogen that poses a significant threat to human health. Radioactivity should never be released into the environment in an uncontrolled manner, warns a white paper by E. Ivan White, a staff scientist for the National Council on Radiation Protection. A U.S. Geological Survey report also shows excess levels of radioactivity in wastewater from the Marcellus shale.

Because oceans covered much of the earth – the waste fluid that comes back up from the deep not only contains radioactivity and arsenic from the rock - but also contains salt.

Because of the salt content, some states have spread the waste on roads as deicing material and have thereby released radioactivity into their environment.

As the oil and gas industry work to find more and more places to dispose of their toxic waste – and as places are harder and harder to find such places -- Connecticut becomes very vulnerable unless it passes a law that bans fracking waste from coming into our state. Fracking waste is capable of harming human health as well as contaminating our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health Inc.
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